WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Self-Help Groups in the country

*486. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many Self-Help Groups have been formed in each State and Union Territory of the country;

(b) how many of these SHGs have become self-dependant, to cater to the needs of the families connected with them;

(c) whether it is a fact that the SHGs are not able to get financial assistance from the nationalized Banks in many cases; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures Government propose to take in such cases?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), implemented by the Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Development, is a holistic programme of micro-enterprises covering all aspects of self-employment. Under the SGSY, the total number of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) formed since inception i.e. 1.4.1999 till March, 2007, is 25.22 lakh. State-wise number of Self-Help Groups formed under the Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), since inception till March, 2007 is given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) Under the SGSY scheme SHGs that have crossed the Grade-II stage are provided with economic assistance. The number of such SHGs is 4.55 lakh. State-wise number of Self-Help Groups that have been formed, that reached Grade-I & II stages as well as the ones that have taken up economic activities under the SGSY is given in Statement-II (*See* below). The data pertaining to the number of Self-Help Groups that have crossed the poverty line is not maintained by this Ministry. In the initial years of the programme, emphasis was on the formation of the SHGs. The SHGs have started pursuing economic activities in the later years of the programme after attaining the required maturity. As per the Concurrent Evaluation done in the year 2002-03, 37.24% of the individual swarozgaris and 15.09% of the SHG Swarozgaris have crossed the poverty line. A study done by the NIRD in 13 States in 2006 also found that the assistance under the SGSY has enabled the Swarozgaris to enhance their earnings. The results of

this study are under examination in the Ministry. Upon the completion of the Tenth Plan Period on 31.3.2007, the Ministry has decided to take up a comprehensive evaluation of the SGSY programme covering the Tenth Plan Period.

(c) The SGSY is a credit-cum-subsidy scheme. While subsidy is only a minor and Enabling component, Credit is a critical component of the scheme that envisages involvement of the banking sector. The Banks, however, have generally not been able to meet the credit disbursement targets set for them under the scheme. Of the total credit target of Rs. 22, 157.86 crore set for the Banks since the inception of the programme (1.4.1999), only Rs. 12, 064.09 crore (55.64%) have been disbursed by the Banks till March, 2007. However, it may be stated that the percentage of credit mobilized under the SGSY programme has been steadily increasing from 32.96% in 1999-2000 to 78.45% in 2006-07.

(d) The Ministry of Rural Development has taken several steps to improve the performance of credit disbursal under the SGSY, in coordination with the various agencies involved *viz*. Ministry of Finance, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), State Governments and the Commercial and Cooperative Banks through the Central Level Coordination Committee, etc.

The steps taken by the Ministry of Rural Development so far, are as below.

- The Minister, Rural Development has taken up the issue of low credit flow to the SGSY beneficiaries with the Union Finance Minister.
- The Secretary, Rural Development has taken up the matter of low credit-flow with the Reserve Bank of India as well as the Chairmen and Managing Directors of the various Public Sector Banks.
- The Ministry collected information of poor performing Bank branches under SGSY from various State Governments/UTs and took up this matter with Ministry of Finance.
- The Ministry of Finance issued directions to the CMDs of Banks to take stern action against the Bank officers who fail to achieve the credit targets under the SGSY.
- Quarterly credit mobilization targets are fixed for better monitoring of credit achievement under the SGSY throughout the year.

- A meeting was held on 19th April, 2005, in Mumbai under the Chairmanship of Dy. Governor, RBI with CMDs of Commercial Banks where performance of Banks under the SGSY was evaluated.
- Credit related issues are regularly taken up for discussion in the Central Level Coordination Committee Meetings that are attended by the top management of the Banks as well as the representatives of the RBI and the State Governments.
- Regular discussions on Credit performance in the Performance Review Committee Meetings with the State Governments.
- Information pertaining to the holding of the District Level and State Level Bankers Committee Meetings are being obtained from the State Governments.

Statement-I

State-wise No. of SHGs formed

Sl.No.	States/U.T.	No. of SHGs Formed
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	478891
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	452
3.	Assam	139409
4.	Bihar	114509
5.	Chhattisgarh	52568
6.	Goa	770
7.	Gujarat	92706
8.	Haryana	12347
9.	Himachal Pradesh	5853
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	7562

1	2	3
11.	Jharkhand	37825
12.	Karnataka	45074
13.	Kerala	62690
14.	Madhya Pradesh	267042
15.	Maharashtra	144024
16.	Manipur	705
17.	Meghalaya	5694
18.	Mizoram	1472
19.	Nagaland	2868
20.	Orissa	167403
21.	Punjab	4619
22.	Rajasthan	30864
23.	Sikkim	1450
24.	Tamil Nadu	277983
25.	Tripura	19067
26.	U.P.	345654
27.	Uttaranchal	19432
28.	West Bengal	181775
29.	A & N Islands	386
30.	Daman & Diu	0
31.	Dadra & N. Haveli	16
32.	Lakshadweep	8
33.	Pondicherry	1393
	TOTAL:	2522511

Statement-II

No. of SHGs formed, passed Grade-I, II and commenced Economic Activities under the SGSY (since inception upto 2006-07)

Sl. No.	States/U.T.	No. of SHGs Formed	Grade I SHGs	Grade II SHGs	SHGs that have taken up Economic Activities
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	478891	441253	337548	107812
2	Arunachal Pradesh	452	178	85	216
3	Assam	139409	84772	37456	25831
4	Bihar	114509	50459	24058	27413
5	Chhattisgarh	52568	22916	7934	6585
6	Goa	770	407	216	264
7	Gujarat	92706	26419	8079	5712
8	Haryana	12347	8783	5804	5366
9	Himachal Pradesh	5853	5161	4456	4392
10	Jammu & Kashmir	7562	4076	1216	3176
11	Jharkhand	37825	22867	8678	13480
12	Karnataka	45074	25798	20550	20852
13	Kerala	62690	44503	16412	8641
14	Madhya Pradesh	267042	94699	35616	32529
15	Maharashtra	144024	94729	45830	30470
16	Manipur	705	139	36	17
17	Meghalaya	5694	3141	1042	880
18	Mizoram	1472	772	814	1319
19	Nagaland	2868	1609	1561	2583
20	Orissa	167403	88369	35722	24442
21	Punjab	4619	2756	1608	2053
22	Rajasthan	30864	17828	6379	4857
23	Sikkim	1450	849	317	344
24	Tamil Nadu	277983	177107	44327	29420
25	Tripura	19067	8484	2915	6516
26	U.P.	345654	177579	82009	73595
27	Uttaranchal	19432	13640	8467	6731
28	West Bengal	181775	130370	26645	9462
29	A & N Islands	386	247	72	178

1	2	3	4	5	6
30	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0
31	Dadra & N. Haveli	16	0	0	0
32	Lakshadweep	8	6	0	5
33	Pondicherry	1393	1169	618	409
	TOTAL:	2522511	1551085	766470	455550

Controversy over the SEZ Scheme

*487. SHRI S. M. LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Special Economic Zones and the policy of land acquisition have become controversial as stated in media reports;

(b) if so, what steps Government would take to delink the Special Economic Zones Policy from the forced land acquisitions;

(c) the steps proposed to remove land acquisition and accompanying corruption from the Special Economic Zone Scheme; and

(d) the schedule for such action?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d) Number of issues and petitions relating to Special Economic Zones (SEZs) including issues relating to acquisition of land were considered by the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) on SEZ Issues and it has been decided that the pending applications for SEZs may be processed for in principle & formal approvals and notifications subject to the condition that the State Governments would not undertake any compulsory acquisition of land for such SEZs. The maximum area for the SEZ has been limited to 5000 Hectares now. It has also been decided that the Ministry of Rural Development be requested to reformulate a comprehensive Land Acquisition Act to address all relevant issues and to work out a comprehensive Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy ensuring livelihood from the project to at least one person from each displaced family.

Defining industrially backward districts

*488. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any reference has been made to the Planning Commission